

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282424

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND BRAZILIAN

AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTRO

1. AT HIS REQUEST AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTRO CALLED UPON THE SECRETARY ON DECEMBER 24 TO PRESENT A LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA AND TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION AT THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE LETTER, WHICH COMMENTS ON THE PLANNING TALKS AND PRESENTS SILVEIRA'S VIEWS ON HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL, FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. ARAUJO CASTRO SAID SILVEIRA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SPECULATION IN PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES LATELY TO THE EFFECT THAT US POLICY TOWARD CUBA -- PARTICULARLY ON CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE BUENOS AIRES MFM -- HAD CHANGED OR WAS BEING CHANGED. THE SECRETARY FIRMLY ASSURED ARAUJO CASTRO THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY CONCERNING CUBA AND THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO COORDINATE WITH BRAZIL CLOSELY ON THIS ISSUE. HE STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN MOVE BY THE US, NO SURPRISES.

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3. THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THE QUESTION OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION AT THE BUENOS AIRES MFM WOULD BE FOR CUBA NOT TO BE INVITED TO THE MEETING BUT FOR THE MFM TO TAKE A DECISION ON CUBA THAT EVERYONE COULD LIVE WITH. SUCH A DECISION MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A RECOMMENDATION TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL MEET IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL.

4. THE SECRETARY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING VISITING LATIN AMERICA IN FEBRUARY AND SUGGESTED THAT HE COULD ARRIVE IN BRAZIL AFTER CARNIVAL, PERHAPS FEBRUARY 12 OR 13.

5. FYI. WITH REGARD TO THE VISIT TO BRAZIL, THE SECRETARY HAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROPOSED GOING TO BRAZIL FEBRUARY 20-23 (STATE 282175). BROWN

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